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(E31)

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ACTION WHA-00

BUENOS 01273 01 OF 03 151807Z

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00
	INL-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	STR-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W				

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O 151748Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6317
INFO WHA DIPLOMATIC POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
FBI WASHDC PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

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USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BUENOS AIRES 001273

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, WHAEPSC, EB/IFD/OMA, NSC FOR JOANNA WALLACE AND CLAY LOWERY, EX - IM BANK FOR MICHELE WILKINS, TREASURY FOR OASIA NATAN EPSTEIN, TREASURY FOR OCC CARLOS HERNANDEZ, USDOC FOR VALERIE DEES, USDOL FOR ILAB - PAULA CHURCH, PASS FED BOARD OF GOVERNORS BETH ANNE WILSON, USCINCSO FOR POLAD LINDA WATT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/15/2012
TAGS: PGOV, ECON, PREL, EFIN, AR, VE
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: POLITICAL DAILY - MONDAY, APRIL 15

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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Current Handling: n/a

CLASSIFIED BY: POLCOUNS MICHAEL MATERA. FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

REACTION TO VENEZUELA EVENTS

1. (U) EVENTS IN VENEZUELA DOMINATED THE LOCAL PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND. THE EARLY AND OUTSPOKEN POSITION OF PRESIDENT DUHALDE CONDEMNING THE APRIL 12 COUP WAS STRESSED. DUHALDE CALLED THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT OF PEDRO CARMONA A "TYPICAL DICTATORSHIP," AND HE OPENLY REFERRED TO THE EVENTS OF APRIL 12 AS A "COUP D'ETAT." THE GOA WAS CAUTIOUS IN ITS INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE RETURN OF CHAVEZ TO THE PRESIDENCY ON APRIL 14, THOUGH INFORMAL REACTIONS OF SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS RELIEVED WITH THE EARLY

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REVERSAL OF THE COUP. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE EVENTS IN VENEZUELA SINCE DUHALDE'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON APRIL 13. CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO USG REACTIONS TO THE APRIL 12-14 EVENTS.

DUHALDE SEARCHES FOR GOVERNORS' SUPPORT

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	SSO-00	STR-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W				

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O 151748Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6318
INFO WHA DIPLOMATIC POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BUENOS AIRES 001273

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, WHAEPSC, EB/IFD/OMA, NSC FOR JOANNA
WALLACE AND CLAY LOWERY, EX - IM BANK FOR MICHELE WILKINS,
TREASURY FOR OASIA NATAN EPSTEIN, TREASURY FOR OCC CARLOS
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POLITICAL CONFLICT IN ENTRE RIOS

4. (U) A BREWING POLITICAL CONFLICT IN THE PROVINCE OF ENTRE
RIOS IS THREATENING TO COMPLICATE PRESIDENT DUHALDE'S
INFORMAL POLITICAL COALITION WITH THE RADICAL PARTY (UCR).
THE CURRENT UCR GOVERNOR OF ENTRE RIOS, SERGIO MONTIEL, IS
UNDER THREAT OF IMPEACHMENT BY A MAJORITY OF PJ AND A
MINORITY OF UCR LEGISLATORS IN HIS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS. THE
STRUGGLE REPORTEDLY IS A CONTINUATION OF A LONG-RUNNING
RIVALRY BETWEEN MONTIEL AND FORMER GOVERNOR AND CURRENT
NATIONAL SENATOR JORGE BUSTI (PJ), WHO IS APPARENTLY BEHIND
THE IMPEACHMENT EFFORTS. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR IF THE
ANTI-MONTIEL FORCES HAVE SUFFICIENT VOTES IN THE PROVINCIAL

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LOWER HOUSE TO REQUIRE AN UPPER HOUSE TRIAL, BUT THE CONFLICT
REPORTEDLY HAS ALREADY LED FORMER PRESIDENT ALFONSIN TO
THREATEN TO RESIGN FROM HIS SENATE SEAT IF MONTIEL IS REMOVED
FROM OFFICE. MONTIEL IS ACCUSED OF POOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS

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DUTIES, INCLUDING WITHHOLDING FUNDS TO THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH CARE HMO, FAILURE TO TRANSFER FEDERALLY PROVIDED FUNDS TO SOME MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS (PRIMARILY THOSE RUN BY THE PJ), AND OTHER MOVES WHICH HAVE PUT THE LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE AT THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST DE LA RUA

5. (U) FORMER PRESIDENT FERNANDO DE LA RUA FAILED TO APPEAR ON APRIL 11 BEFORE A FEDERAL JUDGE INVESTIGATING WHETHER THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY TO FORCE HIM TO RESIGN LAST DECEMBER. DE LA RUA'S LAWYERS ARGUED THAT THE UNEXPECTED NATURE OF THE SUMMONS AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS PREVENTED HIS FROM APPEARING, BUT THAT HE WAS "ENTHUSIASTIC AND WILLING" TO GIVE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE. THE INVESTIGATING FEDERAL JUDGE, NORBERTO OYARBIDE, CALLED ON DE LA RUA TO TESTIFY ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 15. THE LEADING EDITORIAL IN THE DAILY OF RECORD "LA NACION" ON APRIL 14, ENTITLED "THE PLOT AGAINST DE LA RUA" CALLED FOR FULL REVELATIONS OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN MID-AND LATE-DECEMBER WITH THE DOWNFALL OF DE LA RUA AND RODRIGUEZ SAA. THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO DE LA RUA'S CHARGES THAT THE SOCIAL UNREST AND SUPERMARKET LOOTINGS IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES WERE NOT SPONTANEOUS BUT WERE PLANNED BY PERONISTS AND RADICALS OF THE PROVINCE WHO WANTED A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. THE PRESS HAS INCREASINGLY OPENLY

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REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT LOOTERS WERE PAID TO CREATE TROUBLE BY OFFICIALS IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUENOS AIRES.

POLL SHOWS LOW SUPPORT FOR GOA

6. (U) A GALLUP POLL CARRIED OUT FROM APRIL 4-8 SHOWED THAT 67 PERCENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED DISAPPROVED OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COURSE OF PRESIDENT DUHALDE, WITH ONLY 24 PERCENT IN APPROVAL. A FULL 81 PERCENT DISAPPROVE OF ECONOMY MINISTER REMES LENICOV'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE, WITH ONLY 13 PERCENT APPROVING. DESPITE THESE INDICATIONS, 58 PERCENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED PREFER THAT DUHALDE SERVE THROUGH THE END OF HIS OFFICIAL TERM IN DECEMBER 2003. 52 PERCENT BELIEVE THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE THROUGH DECEMBER 2003 WHILE 39 PERCENT BELIEVE THAT HE SHOULD RESIGN.

7. (U) ANOTHER RECENT GALLUP POLL SHOWED 78 PERCENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED EXPECTING FURTHER VIOLENT LOOTING OF SUPERMARKETS

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AS HAS HAPPENED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN RECENT MONTHS, WITH 89 PERCENT EXPECTING A CONTINUATION OF ROADBLOCKS AND 82 PERCENT EXPECTING "NEW BLOODY PROTESTS" IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. THE POLL UNDERLINED THE CONTINUING PESSIMISTIC

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PUBLIC VIEW OF THE CURRENT CRISIS.
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